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Virginia Corn and Cotton Production Higher

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the October Crop Production report today, showing increased corn and cotton production from 2017.

“Corn and cotton production are expected to be higher than last year’s crops,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “Excess precipitation from Hurricane Florence during the month of September may have slowed harvest and limited cotton yield but, the farmers were able to harvest their crops ahead of the normal pace.”

Corn production in **Virginia** was forecast at 48.8 million bushels, up 3 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 148.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushels from the 2017 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 330,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2017. The **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 14.8 billion bushels, up 1 percent from 2017. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 180.7 bushels per acre, up 4.1 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, up slightly from the September forecast but down 1 percent from 2017.

Soybean production for **Virginia** is forecast at 25.4 million bushels, down 2 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushels from a year ago. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at 4.69 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.1 bushels per acre, up 3.8 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.3 million acres, down 1 percent from September but down 1 percent from 2017.

Virginia cotton production is projected to be 205,000 bales, up 7 percent from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,014 pounds per acre, down 96 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 97,000 acres, up 14,000 acres from 2017. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 19.8 million bales, down 6 percent from 2017. Yields are forecast to average 901 pounds per acre, down 4 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 10.5 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Peanut farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 98.4 million pounds for 2018, down 18 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 24,000 acres, down 3,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 4,100 pounds per acre, down 340 pounds from 2017.

Virginia flue-cured tobacco production was forecast at 46.2 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2017. Yield was projected at 2,100 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged from last year's crop. **U.S. flue-cured** production was forecast at

342 million pounds, down 26 percent from last year. Flue-cured growers plan to harvest 204,500 acres, down 2 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 1,672 pounds per acre, down 527 pounds from last year.

Production of **Virginia dark fire-cured** tobacco was forecast at 532,000 pounds, down 8 percent from the previous year. **Burley** tobacco production was forecast at 1.70 million pounds, down 23 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 162,000 tons, 16 percent below the 2017 level. **Other hay** production was estimated at 2.52 million tons, down 5 percent from last year.

Survey responses for this report were collected around October 1. “I want to thank the producers for taking time to provide data for this report,” Ellison said.

**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, October 1
VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018		2017	2018
						Sep 1 ¹	Oct 1 ²		
	VIRGINIA								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Barley ³⁴	30	30	11	9	73.0	70.0	--	803	630
Corn ³	500	490	340	330	140.0	148.0	148.0	47,600	48,840
Soybeans ³	600	600	590	590	44.0	43.0	43.0	25,960	25,370
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	210	230	145	155	66.0	60.0	--	9,570	9,300
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Cotton ⁵	84	98	83	97	1,110	1,089	1,014	192	205
Peanuts	27	24	27	24	4,440	4,100	4,100	119,880	98,400
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	1,205	1,095	2.36	--	2.45	2,838	2,682
Alfalfa	--	--	55	45	3.50	--	3.60	193	162
Other, All	--	--	1,150	1,050	2.30	--	2.40	2,645	2,520
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	23,370	23,280	2,284	2,179	2,080	53,381	48,432
Burley	--	--	1,100	1,000	2,000	1,800	1,700	2,200	1,700
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	270	280	2,150	1,900	1,900	581	532
Flue-Cured	--	--	22,000	22,000	2,300	2,200	2,100	50,600	46,200
	UNITED STATES								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Barley ³⁴	2,481	2,543	1,954	1,978	72.6	77.4	--	141,923	153,082
Corn ³	90,167	89,140	82,703	81,767	176.6	181.3	180.7	14,604,067	14,777,826
Soybeans ³	90,142	89,145	89,522	88,348	49.3	52.8	53.1	4,410,673	4,689,628
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,696	32,535	25,291	24,742	50.2	47.9	--	1,269,437	1,183,939
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Cotton ⁵	12,613	14,042	11,100	10,525	905	895	901	20,923	19,763
Peanuts	1,872	1,427	1,776	1,385	4,007	4,151	4,167	7,115,410	5,769,050
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	53,784	55,068	2.44	--	2.44	131,455	134,384
Alfalfa	--	--	16,563	17,351	3.32	--	3.43	55,068	59,527
Other, All	--	--	37,221	37,717	2.05	--	1.98	76,387	74,857
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	321,470	301,980	2,209	2,088	1,814	710,161	547,812
Burley	--	--	81,500	64,800	1,977	1,996	1,743	161,140	112,960
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	19,270	18,880	3,089	3,060	3,060	59,531	57,772
Flue-Cured	--	--	209,500	204,500	2,199	1,998	1,672	460,650	341,900

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are denoted by "--". ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ⁵ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.